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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,419	09/26/2003	Masahiro Sawayanagi	06753-0566	5732

7590 08/24/2004

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EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/670,419	Applicant(s) SAWAYANAGI, MASAHIRO	
	Examiner Brigitte R. Hammond	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/19/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: it is unclear to the Examiner exactly what Applicant is trying to convey with "supporting the cable not to be contacted to the bus bar circuit except the pressure-welding edge". For examination purposes the Examiner shall assume supporting the cable not to be contacted to the bus bar circuit". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the vicinity" in line 2; claim 3 recites the limitations "the top" and "the bottom" and claim 4 recites the limitations "the top" and "the state". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

As a courtesy to the applicant, the examiner has "objected" to the claims. However, In order to avoid a 35 USC § 112 rejection, appropriate correction is required in response to this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1- 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA)^{Fig 1+2} or JP202 124340. AAPA discloses a bracket comprising: a connector housing 101 having a cable wiring surface 101a onto which a

cable is wired; a bus bar circuit disposed in an exposed state on the cable wiring surface (page 1, lines 21-24); a pressure welding edge 103 formed on the bus bar circuit for connecting the cable to the bus bar circuit by pressure welding; and a lower cable support rib (not numbered in AAPA fig.1) disposed on the cable wiring surface for supporting the cable.

Regarding claim 2, the support rib is disposed in the vicinity of the bus bar circuit.

Regarding claim 3, the lower cable support rib is configured so as to be higher than a top surface of the bus bar circuit and lower than a bottom surface of the cable pressure-welded to the pressure welding edges, as shown in fig 2.

Regarding claim 4, AAPA discloses a cover 102 disposed on the connector housing for covering the cable wiring surface; and an upper cable support rib (not numbered, shown in fig. 1) and disposed on the internal surface of the cover and configured to be high enough to abut the top surface of the cable when the cover is mounted.

Regarding claim 5, AAPA discloses first cable-end support portions disposed on both ends of the connector housing (see attachment of fig. 1.) and second cable-end support portions disposed on both ends of the cover (see attachment of fig. 1.) for supporting the cable to be disposed "approximately" parallel with the cable wiring surface above the bus bar circuits, in cooperation with the first cable-end support portions.

Conclusion

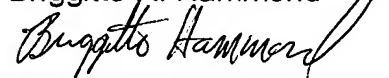
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Locati 5,122,079, Yasui et al. 5,044,553, Kosugi et al. 4,641,904, Dale et al. 4,997,388 and Liu et al. 5,041,007 were cited for similar connectors.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brigitte R. Hammond



August 21, 2004

1/11

FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

